

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

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General Administration

1. Health Centers (Oserodki Zdrowia) are found in every (sic) county and provincial town. There are no doctors with private practices. In case of illness the procedure is as follows:

The patient is directed to the Health Center by his firm's doctor or personnel manager (if there is no firm doctor), taking with him his Health Insurance Card, possession of which is compulsory. The patient first reports the nature of his complaint to the administrative personnel who then give him a card with the name of a doctor, the room number and the time of the appointment. Patients who are seriously ill are conveyed directly to the hospital by ambulance. The task of the firm doctor is to give treatment in urgent cases. After seeing the doctor at the Health Center, the patient is given the prescription and the address of the chemist's shop to which he must go. The patient pays 20% of the cost of the medicine, excepting in the case of antibiotics, where he pays the full cost. All chemist's shops in Poland are nationalized.

2. In Legnica (Legnits) all the local doctors are attached to the Health Center. There are five nationalized chemist's shops and three hospitals in Legnica:

- Hospital for infectious and venereal diseases on ul. Polna.
- General Municipal Hospital on ul. Traugutta.
- Children's Hospital on ul. Poselska.

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3. It is general knowledge throughout Poland that hospitals are extremely overcrowded and that medical and nursing care is of a low standard.

Industrial Health

4. In the Stalin coal mine in Bytom (Beuthen) on ul. Siemianowicka, 3000 workers are employed on three shifts. There is a first-aid room (ambulatorium) staffed by one doctor on each shift. An ambulance is always standing by in case of accidents. As a rule, this type of first-aid room is found in all large workshops, coal mines and foundries. In smaller concerns (employing about 50 workers) there are small first-aid boxes with iodine etc. usually in the charge of one of the workers who has some knowledge of first-aid.
5. In certain workshops new employees have to undergo a medical examination but this is not a general rule.
6. Miners employed at the coal face in the Stalin mine in Bytom are given half a liter of milk per day. Workers in the State Farms (P.G.R.) workshops in Legnica on ul. Piastowa are also given half a liter of milk daily.

Blood Transfusion

7. There is a campaign on in Poland calling for blood donors. It is conducted mainly in the form of posters, notices in Health Centers, cinema advertisements, and at lectures and meetings. Further procedure is not known but it is presumed that there are special blood donor centers in the larger towns.

Diseases

8. In the summer of 1952 inoculations (vaccination) were administered to people in all parts of Poland. The particular type is not known.

Medicines

9. Antibiotics are unobtainable in chemist's shops. Hospitals hold them in limited quantities. They are mostly obtained from parcels sent from friends abroad. Only penicillin is produced in Poland but it is difficult to get and only in small quantities. The efficacy of the domestic product is not known.

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